

# THE ALMA RECORD

BARCOCK &amp; GROSSKOPF, Proprietors

Published Every Thursday Afternoon at Alma, Gratiot County, Michigan

H. S. BARCOCK Editor ELINOR G. BARCOCK Associate Editor

## TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION

One copy, one year.....\$1.50 One copy, three months......50  
One copy, six months......75 Outside of State, one year.....2.00

## ADVERTISING RATES

For advertising rates apply for schedule.  
Notices of church and lodge socials and entertainments where admission is charged, regular advertising rates.  
Obituary notices, 125 words free, over that, one cent per word. All obituary poetry, one cent per word.  
Classified ads, one cent per word each issue, with a minimum price of 20 cents, cash in advance; stamps accepted.

The Record is entered at the postoffice at Alma, Michigan, for transmission through the mail as second class matter.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

## THE GAS PROPOSITION

The Gratiot County Gas Company, operating in Alma, St. Louis, Ithaca and Breckenridge, paid an eight per cent dividend last year, yet it is now seeking a fixed return of seven per cent, and discussions of the question around the city seem to indicate that some few people here think that there is a "nigger in the woodpile."

Since its inception five years ago, the Gratiot County Gas Company has paid, according to the best available information, twelve per cent, or a trifle over two per cent a year, an interest rate at which no investor would loan his money. But be that as it may, it is that guarantee of seven per cent that is troubling some people, who cannot believe that policy and necessity might make it highly desirable to forego that one per cent.

Anyone who will stop and analyze the high costs that have come since the United States went into the World war, must realize that these costs have not only hit in the home, but have hit industries. One of these is the Gratiot County Gas Company.

A thing not generally known, however, is that the Gratiot County Gas Company has a plant that is rated as having a capacity of 35,000,000 cubic feet of gas per year, but that it has exceeded that capacity and is approaching 50,000,000 cubic feet per year. It is even now carrying such a load that at meal times, when the greatest drain on the gas comes, there is no reserve supply available—the gas is low—and people "cuss" the gas company.

The gas company can continue just as it is at present, giving the best service possible under the conditions of today, and pay its stockholders a dividend. In other words, service would be sacrificed. The company cannot refuse its present patrons gas, or the franchise is revocable.

Then again under certain circumstances, enumerated in the franchise, the company can be compelled to extend its mains, and furnish new patrons, which would be idle of course, when the service that should be given, cannot be given to those now connected up.

The Gratiot County Gas Company realizes that it must keep pace with the growing demands of the city, realizes that gas is a big factor in the making of any live community. Thus it is desirous of borrowing \$50,000 to increase the capacity of the plant, by increased storage tanks for gas, that a reserve supply may be built up for the peak loads.

In the face of the eight per cent paid to the stockholders last year this cannot be done. Half of that eight per cent went to the company as the result of the temporary increase in rates. It cannot borrow, and pay seven per cent interest, guaranteed to the investor, on a temporary rate. It must have a permanent, fixed rate sufficient to pay interest charges on the borrowed money. That is the one big reason for the asking of this fixed return.

It would then be able to furnish gas that has the pressure needed, when it is needed. Service would not then suffer. New mains and new patrons could be taken care of, and the growth of the company would be reflecting the growth of the community.

Such a fixed rate might make a gas rate this coming year of \$1.45 per thousand cubic feet. The next year it might be reduced, by the city commission if the company's earnings were over seven per cent, to \$1.40, \$1.35 or even less. It might go slightly higher, but there seems little prospect of that at the present time, and in fact the greater the production the less should be the unit cost, and the rate should be correspondingly less.

The city commission is now going over the books of the company, and if it finds that the company's condition is such that a guaranteed seven per cent is needed to allow the company to borrow the funds that it needs, the people of Alma, St. Louis, Ithaca and Breckenridge, should think twice before rejecting the proposition. The rejection of it might prove very serious. Present conditions between gas companies and cities in all parts of the state can be cited as examples, notably, however, the City of Lansing.

A public utility has only service to sell, and if these cities cripple the service, through rejection of a necessity, they should not blame a hard working management that seemingly is doing all that it can to supply the service to which the people are entitled.

## POLITICAL FOOLISHNESS

The man who said, "Many Americans don't think unless they have to," rather finds justification for his statement in the boom that has been started for Herbert Hoover for president of the United States. Hoover distributed food successfully to foreign nations and succeeded in cutting American rations down to the limit and just now he is urging that the U. S. give one hundred fifty million dollars to feed the Russian Bolsheviks while they quarrel and fight among themselves and disturb the peace of the world instead of working and earning their living.

His work as a distributor of food has been highly commended, especially abroad, but that in no wise fits him for the high office of president. What we need in the president's chair, and in congress is a man who will look to the American interests first, and then devote a reasonable attention to the welfare of foreigners. We are facing the greatest crisis in our history and we can't afford any political foolishness or sentimental twaddle.

The serious mention of the name of Herbert Hoover as a Presidential possibility is one of the unexplainable political phenomena with which the American voter is frequently regaled. Mr. Hoover was practically unheard of in this country until the European war furnished his vehicle of publicity. He did yeoman service in handling the Belgian relief work, and from his office in London came to America to supervise the production and distribution of our food supplies. Whether he executed that commission efficiently or not is beside the question. The fact remains that practically the only act of Mr. Hoover's life that identifies him with America is his work for the food commission.

In 1897, when Mr. Hoover was only twenty-three years old, he moved to Australia to engage in mining activities. In 1899 he removed to China and became the chief engineer of the Chinese Imperial Bureau of Mines. In that capacity he explored the interior of China, and in a short time became associated with private companies for the exploitation of the mines of that country. For several years he resided in London and acted as director in a number of British corporations engaged in Asiatic development. A list of the concerns in which Mr. Hoover's interests are now centered sounds like quotations from the London Stock Exchange. For practically twenty years Mr. Hoover has concentrated his energies on the development of foreign properties. Deserving the country which gave him birth and an education he went abroad and stayed there. Now when the emergency of war, rather than any voluntary desire on his part, has brought about his return to his native land, he seems to entertain the notion that the voters will select him to direct the destinies of the Nation for the next four years. A more preposterous supposition could hardly be conceived.

A man who never voted in the United States but once, and who advocates the U. S. feeding the old world and lending them money while they quarrel among themselves, is not a safe man for American interests and his boom for the presidency is ridiculous.

## WOMEN ARE KEEPING BOOKS IN 1920 THRIFT CAMPAIGN

Feminine Army Starts Three Months' Test to Pave Way for Safe Investment

The savings division of the treasury department is depending on the women of the nation not only to help bring down the high cost of living, but to establish the permanent practice of saving money and material, and finally the investing of these savings in safe securities, such as War Savings stamps and \$100 and \$1,000 Treasury Savings certificates.

Under the signature of William Mather Lewis, director of the savings division, a letter has been sent to the presiding officers of all the principal women's organizations of the country. The general plan for the work of the women in 1920 has been worked out in a national way by Mrs. Grace G. Bartlett, vice director in charge of women's organizations.

Supplementing the letters sent out by her and Director Lewis, a similar letter has been sent to all the women's organizations in the five states of the Seventh district that have no national thrift chairman. In his letter Director Lewis said in part:

"The influence of women in working out the great economic problems is invaluable. It is in the power of women to regulate the use and control the price of the necessities of life. They are the buyers. They must also be the savers. When this power is applied in a concentrated way, women will be one of the greatest factors in solving the present problem of the high cost of living and in establishing the permanent practice of saving money and material. The savings division called into conference the national thrift chairman of the following women's organizations: Association of Collegiate Alumnae, Daughters of the American Revolution, General Federation of Women's Clubs, National Catholic War Council, National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher's associations, National Council of Jewish Women, National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, National League for Women's Service, Women's department, National Civic Federation, Young Women's Christian association.

"It was agreed that these organizations should be asked to make a test among their membership of the wisdom with which money is spent. This test was to be started January 1 and continued as an experiment through February and March. The plan is as follows:

"January—To keep accounts. Each individual will be asked to keep an account of her daily expenses, grouping them under such items as rent, food, clothing, household service, amusements, incidentals, etc.

"February—To save. Each individual will analyze the January expenses and make an effort through information gained in January to save a certain amount through conservation without hardship.

"March—To invest. Each individual will make a calculation of how much was saved on living expenses in February over an equal number of days in January. In this month an effort will be made to encourage the members of these organizations to invest their savings in government securities."

## WAR SAVINGS STAMPS OF 1920 PAVE WAY TO INDEPENDENCE

The 1920 War Savings stamps are coming in color and bear the head of George Washington. The price for January is \$4.12 and it increases one cent a month to \$4.23 in December. The 25-cent Thrift stamp also is on the market and is used as formerly to evidence payments on account of War Savings stamps and certificates. The 1920 War Savings stamp in size approximates the larger stamp used in 1918. It will have a maturity value of \$5 January 1, 1925.

War Savings stamps of the series of 1918 and 1919 shall not be affixed to War Savings certificates of the series of 1920 and War Savings stamps of the series of 1920 shall not be affixed to War Savings certificates of 1918 or 1919. War Savings stamps of one series affixed to War Savings certificates of another series will not add to the value thereof. Thrift stamps, as such, are not directly redeemable in cash, but each Thrift card will, as usual, have spaces for 16 Thrift stamps. A filled Thrift card may be exchanged for a War Savings certificate stamp, series of 1920, at any post office or other authorized agency. As usual, post offices will require a written demand ten days in advance before payment will be made before maturity, and such War Savings stamp certificate must be surrendered for payment within 60 days after such demand. Otherwise the demand will be deemed to be waived.

## WAY TO KNOCK OUT H. C. L.

"Only the most determined efforts toward thrift, economy, saving and simple living," said William Mather Lewis, director of the savings division, treasury department, "will bring about a reduction in the high cost of living, the stabilization of national industry and commerce, and the continuation of prosperous condition."

## START TO BUILD A FORTUNE.

Rome wasn't built in a day. It went up stone by stone. Fortunes are not built in a day, either; they are built dollar by dollar. Commerce building your fortune today by investing in Government Savings Stamps and keeping it up throughout 1920.

## The Eskimo's Smile.

The smile of the Eskimo is a continuous one. When he is hurt, he smiles; when his kayak upsets and precipitates him into icy water he smiles; when he is friendly he smiles again, and when he is not friendly he smiles, too.

## Head Work.

Two heads are certainly better than one for a barrel—Jacksonville Times Union.

## GOT INSPIRATION AT PIANO

Immortal Melodies Evolved by Masters While Their Fingers "Wandered Idly Over the Keys"

A story is told of Mendelssohn to the effect that the charming arpeggio figure in the Spring song of his "Song Without Words," came to him on a day when he played with his children at the piano, and allowed them to touch his hands, as they wandered over the keys; and it is a fact that many of our most beautiful musical productions owe their origin to a whim passing on the piano.

This is not to be wondered at for many of our greatest musicians have poured out their heart's deepest feelings as their fingers have flitted, in a capricious fashion, over the keys, producing corresponding notes and chords to their ever-changing moods; finding at the keyboard a vent for their most thoughts and desires, often meeting with that triumphant response that thus can never diminish.

We can see in the works of Chopin and Schumann a proof that in the piano is the origin of many of their most beautiful productions, while in the great symphonies of the old masters their shape, form, and color have been gained at the piano where their fingers "wandered idly over the noisy keys."

This is not so hard to understand when we consider that the method of composing a melody is, in essence, but the picking out and assimilating some melodic tune to which the harmony is afterward added. From this primitive instinct is ultimately produced the immortal tone pictures of the great musicians.

## FISH LIAR WORKS OVERTIME

Here is One Concerning a Sail Herring That is Challenge to the Imagination.

That is the worst of those fish stories. Somebody always comes along with a better one.

Recently the Evening News told the V. A. D.'s story of the frozen fish that came to life in the cooking pot. Then a correspondent—a naval officer, it should be said—easily puts that to shame.

"An interesting experiment was tried some little time ago," he writes to us, "with an ordinary herring."

"The fish was put into a large bowl of salt water and every day a small quantity of water was removed and an equal quantity of fresh was substituted, until eventually the fish lived and thrived in purely fresh water."

"The owner was so pleased with the success of his experiment that he then tried removing a very small quantity of water daily until the bowl was empty, and found that the herring did excellently, entirely without water, and as he was so lively in the empty bowl he had to put him in a cage."

"Here he lived happily, hopping from perch to perch just like a bird until one day some sudden noise startled him and he fell into his water trough and—was drowned!"

## Words and Music.

The value of words is going up at least in Rome. There the courts have decided that the artistic value of the words and music of a poem are equal. At present in the United States and Canada the writer of the words of a song gets only a pittance of the royalties of a small sum out right at the start. In England many of the most popular ballads have brought their writers no more than two or three guineas, while the composer goes on cashing his royalty checks for years. What measure publishers apply to the two arts thus combined to make words so much less valuable than music is rather hard to understand. Verse writers might well send a little gold medal to the just-minded citizens of Rome who have ruled it a false one.

## Unusual Methods Used.

With the end of the war have come many revelations of the unusual methods used by the Germans to spread their harmful propaganda in the countries arrayed against the central powers, and of the clever work which often frustrated their well-laid plans. In one case, mentioned in Popular Mechanics Magazine, what appeared to be an old and worn copy of the works of Homer proved to be a volume of attacks on British rule in India. Only the first few pages of the book were printed with the words of the ancient poet. The remainder, though in Greek type like the beginning, was filled with his diatribe. The volume was addressed to an educated Hindu capable of translating the Greek into an Indian dialect.

## Costly Parking Space.

Tired of being taken into court by traffic policemen, because at the time he goes to business his car has to be parked in the street, as day storage is at a premium and access to a public garage at those hours is difficult, Philip Rosenbach, art connoisseur of Philadelphia, has just paid \$10,000 for a stable property which he will convert into a private garage for himself. It is near his place of business.

## Babies More Plentiful Than Houses.

"It is easier to find a baby than a house in Sydney now," reports the Bulletin of that Australian city, concluding thusly: "Writer knows a young bride who went to live with her mother pending the discovery of a suitable residence. She has two infants now and is still living with her mother."

## First Translation of Bible.

The first translation of any part of the Bible was that by Bede of the Fourth Gospel, in 735. The first complete translation was that of Wycliffe about 1388. Luther was not born until 1483.

## Little Things.

Life is made up of little things. It is but once in an age that occasion is offered for doing a great deed. True greatness consists in being great in little things.

## Peruvian Flower Festival.

Peru celebrates a custom which dates from soon after the Spanish conquest. All soldiers' graves alike are decorated, including those of boys and Indians, individuals little regarded in Peru, at all events during life. In the evening the populace gives itself over to feasting and merrymaking. This particular flower festival is held annually on November 1.

## J. P. LOSEY



Registered Optometrist

Four eyes carefully tested and fitted

119 SUPERIOR ST. ALMA, MICH



## A Lovely Treat For Company

When you have company for an afternoon or an evening, a most delightful and pleasing treat for them—one which is sure to make a "hit"—is

## Brooks' VALEUR Bittersweets

The flavor will leave a lasting, pleasing memory. The quality is in perfect harmony with the most select social function.

Be Sure

You Order

# Brooks' CHOCOLATES

# ANNOUNCEMENT

Department of Music  
Alma College

## SECOND SEMESTER

### VOICE—

One thirty-minute lesson a week per semester..... \$25.00  
Two thirty-minute lessons a week per semester..... 45.00  
Three thirty-minute lessons a week per semester..... 60.00

Professor Clifford F. Royer.

### PIANO AND PIPE ORGAN—

One thirty-minute lesson a week per semester..... \$21.00  
Two thirty-minute lessons a week per semester..... 36.00

Miss Grace D. Roberts.

### PIANO—

One thirty-minute lesson a week per semester..... \$14.00  
Two thirty-minute lessons a week per semester..... 26.00

Miss Hazeldean Crosby.

### THEORETIC SUBJECTS—

One or two hours a week per semester..... \$ 8.00

NOTE—Miss Crosby gives special attention to work with children. Prof. Royer, Director of the Department, will be glad to confer with any one concerning courses offered and to "try out" voices, free of charge.

Phone, Alma College, 231-2 Rings

## FURNITURE and UNDERTAKING



Come in and let us show you how we can beautify your Living Room.

Mrs. Homelover:

It is a mistake to think that old Furniture is comfortable. It isn't, and it isn't SANITARY, either.

You don't feel comfortable sitting in a frayed old chair, nor in seeing it around the house, do you? You feel ashamed of it.

Your living-room should be comfortably and substantially furnished; you will find that we have just what you need to give it that attractive "homey" appearance.

Our Furniture will last a long time. Come in—we want to show it to you.

Our QUALITY is always HIGH; our PRICE is always LOW.

# Crandell & Scott